

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

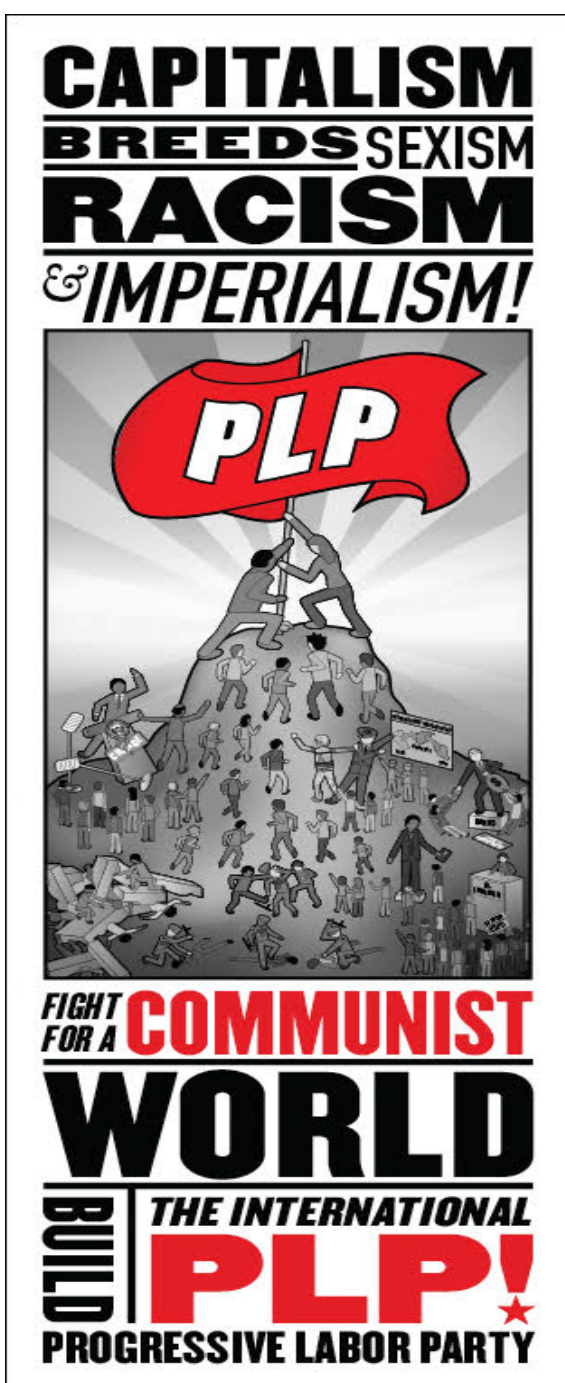
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A volleyball team's best setter:

FIGHTING RACISM



BROOKLYN, NY, October 6—What does winning mean for antiracists in competitive sports within a racist society? That's the big question in a struggle involving coaches, players, teachers, and

parents, including members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP), in the newly integrated John Jay and Millennium High School sports program.

Under capitalism, a system that feeds on inequality and applauds individualism, winning games against rival teams is the be-all and end-all of sports. But communists see winning in a different way. Our victories are defined by antiracism and collectivity. We win by developing people to value the long-term needs of the group over individual achievements.

At John Jay-Millennium, the girls' volleyball players and coaches have a special responsibility to help lead and integrate the school as it transitions from two teams—one with mainly Black and Latin players, the other with mostly white and Asian players—to one. This program has a proud history of fighting racist treatment of Black and Latin players by out-of-control school cops. It has also called out the racist funding inequities in the Department of Education's varsity athletics.

What does antiracist struggle look like on a sports team?

Tryouts for the volleyball team began in August, shortly before the start of the school year. Most of the young women trying out were from Millennium Manhattan school, which in previous years had shared a sports program with the Brooklyn Millennium school at John Jay. When it became clear that John Jay's Black and Latin students would be left with few spots on the varsity team, antiracism needed to be put front and center.

Though tryouts were extended into the first weeks of school to give more opportunities to students from other John Jay schools, coaches conducted the tryouts as they had in years past.

Less experienced players were sent to a second gym within the building, with the intention of providing targeted support to improve their chances of making the team. But in this case, the result was that most of the Black and Latin athletes went to the second gym, while the head coach remained in the first gym with most of the white and Asian athletes. Many of these students had gained an advantage by playing volleyball on private club teams during the previous year, when public school teams were shut down because of the pandemic. Club volleyball costs serious money, as much as \$10,000 per player plus travel expenses—which means that most working class Black and Latin youth don't

have access.

In short, there needed to be a vigorous struggle to discuss and act on the importance of uniting the two programs to create an antiracist, integrated team. Some bold Black players came forward to point out how racist inequities were exposed by the tryouts, and a sharp struggle ensued. What does it mean to have a winning team? Should the most experienced players get all of the meaningful playing time to give the team the best chance to come out on top? Or should the team on the court consistently play more and less experienced players together to advance integration, unity, and the entire squad's development?

Make antiracist integration primary over winning

We are up against a segregated and inherently unequal society and public school system. This system is no accident. Capitalism needs racism to survive. It needs to divide white from Black and Latin students and workers so that all can be oppressed and exploited for profit.

Building an antiracist, integrated team on and off the court is one way we can begin to crack the racist divisions the Department of Education (DOE) trains us all to accept as normal. Since the Black players initiated this struggle, the volleyball team has held multiple discussions about putting antiracism front and center and building team unity. These meetings will continue through the remaining weeks of the season. They are at the core of what we will be most proud of when looking back on this season, whether John Jay Campus wins a championship or not.

For the first time, players are being asked to evaluate how the team is doing politically as well as athletically. They're being encouraged to suggest specific strategies for making the team more equitable. The leadership of Black youth—the ones most brutally targeted by this racist systems—is key to this process. A truly integrated team, with more and less experienced players sharing the court together, is happening more consistently. Although fewer Black players than usual tried out for the team due to vaccination requirements and the vaccine hesitancy of many Black families, the team now has as many

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

- Email**
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
- Mail**
PO Box 808 , Brooklyn, NY 11202
- Internet**
www.plp.org
Twitter, Facebook, Instagram:
@PLPchallenge

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

U.S. racism drives Haiti migrant crisis

After more than 10,000 refugees from Haiti risked their lives to journey through South American jungles and gang-infested territory to reach the Texas border, they were met by a wave of racist terror. In a throwback to the 18th-century slave catchers, U.S. border patrol agents, mounted on horseback, whipped and kidnapped members of our class—men, women, and children. But this shocking display of inhumanity was nothing new. It was part of a long tradition of liberal atrocities toward immigrant and Black workers. In the United States of Amerikkka, Democrat and Republican rulers alike use racism to divide, exploit, scapegoat, and demonize the most vulnerable workers.

After U.S. President Joe Biden campaigned last year to address “the Trump-created humanitarian crisis at our border” and to stop “denying asylum to people fleeing persecution and violence” (joebiden.com), many were deceived into thinking his administration would be a change from open racist Donald Trump, and that he would welcome immigrants with open arms. The reality exposes the fallacy of “lesser evil” wishful thinking. The fact that liberals are the main danger to the international working class. In fact, Biden is following the same playbook used both by Trump and by Biden’s nightmare Democrat predecessor, Reporter-in-Chief Barack Obama. Like Trump, Biden is cynically exploiting the Covid-19 pandemic and using “Title 42” to authorize his nazi border agents to deny migrants their asylum “rights.” Like Obama, he is expelling migrants en masse—more than 700,000 since February (BuzzFeed, 9/23).

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights these racist expulsions and stands in solidarity with workers who are fleeing the instability and destruction caused by capitalism. The international working class must reject all forms of nationalism and borders. The fight to destroy capitalism and imperialist exploitation must be led by Black workers under the banner of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party.

Bosses’racism leads to mass desperate, migrations

Anti-immigrant and anti-Black racism are essential to all capitalist rulers. Since the devastating 2010 earthquake, Haitian bosses have partnered with U.S. and other imperialist thieves in skimming tens of millions of dollars for business “development” while leaving workers in Haiti worse off than ever. This, in turn, has led to the latest mass migration out of Haiti (Current Affairs, November 2016).

In Brazil, the bosses super-exploited these immigrant workers to build stadiums for the 2014 World Cup (Reuters, July 2014). In Chile, they faced racist super-exploitation and terrible poverty; in Venezuela, the collapse of the state capitalist economy caused more of the same. Heading north to the U.S., they had to pass through Mexico under the fake-socialist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who collaborated with the U.S. to keep migrants penned in Mexico while waiting indefinitely for their asylum claims to be processed in the U.S.

Abused, humiliated and rejected, these refugees trekked on from the frying pan into the fire: to the United States, with its horrific history of brutalizing immigrants in general and workers from Haiti in particular.

From Carter to Clinton: racist incarceration

Former U.S. presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald

Reagan worked hand-in-hand with the arch-criminal Duvalier dictatorship(Papa Doc and Baby Doc, ruthless ex-Presidents of Haiti) They deported asylum seekers back to Haiti, sending many to their torture and death.

In 1991, after Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a coup, thousands of fleeing workers were intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard and penned in an overcrowded camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to await processing. Then President George H.W. Bush ordered the Coast Guard to turn back ships directly to Haiti—a policy denounced as “cruel” by Bill Clinton in his 1992 campaign for president. But after taking office, Clinton reversed course and kept Bush’s policy in place.

He also continued to use Guantánamo Bay for the racist detention of hundreds of refugees from Haiti. His administration justified this racist detention by claiming that they were carriers of the HIV virus, even though the rate of HIV transmission was lower in Haiti than in the U.S.(refugees.org, 9/21).

Obama to Biden: continued racist assault

Under the Obama administration, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton focused on building a favorable climate for business in Haiti. In the name of “free trade,” the U.S. embassy engaged in a joint effort with Haitian elites, factory owners, and big U.S. textile companies to cap the minimum wage in Haiti at 31 cents per hour (COHA.org, 7/11).

After the 2010 earthquake, the face of the international relief effort was United Nations “special envoy” Bill Clinton, who channeled “relief” efforts to attract foreign investments and profits. At the time, Port-au-Prince lay in ruins. Haitian workers were crowded into filthy tent cities, where thousands died in a cholera epidemic triggered by United Nations “peacekeepers” (pri.org, 10/27/20). As Current Affairs (11/2/16) noted, “the Clinton-led recovery was a disaster.”

Shortly before Obama left office, his Homeland Security Department rounded up thousands of refugees: “Immigration facilities have been so overrun that hundreds of immigrants have been moved to criminal jails, in violation of international norms” (Miami New Times, 12/14/16). Obama’s solution was to ramp up and fast-track deportations to a country then in shambles from Hurricane Matthew and rocked by “violent post election unrest”(Miami New Times, 12/14/16).

Communism = No Borders

In the face of the relentless attacks by Biden and other capitalist bosses, the refugees from Haiti organized migrant caravans to protect themselves from police and gangs, and to take care of one another to the best of their ability.

As usual, the international working class has turned out in support, with rallies in solidarity throughout the world. At the U.S.-Mexico border, workers from Mexico cooked for the refugees stuck under a bridge in Del Rio, Texas (Mexico Daily News, 9/27). On the U.S. side, community organizations have raised money for them.

As this border crisis continues, we must fight for no deportations—and to build a revolutionary communist party. Borders were created by the capitalists to define which workers were theirs to exploit. But workers have no borders! We must fight for communism to create a world without nations or exploitation. One class, one world, one Party. Join PLP!☺

St Vincent Hospital

Historic strike stands in solidarity vs sicko bosses

Worcester, MA—Members and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) continue to stand by the 700 nurses and other members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), who have proudly been on strike since March 8. Recently this collective passed the 200-day mark, making this the longest strike in Massachusetts history! Party members championed these workers with a bull horn rally at the picket line in front of St. Vincent Hospital and distributed copies of CHALLENGE newspaper. We also created and distributed revolutionary flyers, calling out the hospital bosses for their racist attack on healthcare standards and putting forth that while this historic moment is one to be celebrated, a healthcare system under profit driven capitalism will never serve the working class. We proudly chanted FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM, POWER TO THE WORKERS!

Improper working conditions, Improper patient care

The strike demands are primarily centered around safe staffing ratios (no more than 4 patients per nurse on medical floors) and better patient care. Nurses on the picket line have been drawing attention to the deteriorating quality of healthcare for workers in Worcester and around the country. PLP also made the connection to the deterioration of healthcare for the international working-class.

Like so many capitalist institutions, St. Vincent Hospital is owned by Tenet Healthcare Corporation, a for-profit outfit headquartered in Dallas, TX, which owns 60 community hospitals and 460 other healthcare facilities, including surgical hospitals and imaging centers. They make billions providing substandard healthcare.

Now, in an effort to improve their profit margins, they've minimized hospital staff, pay the lowest wages, and bust unions. In fact, Tenet is so determined to break the strike that they have spent over \$65 million, including \$100 an hour to pay "replacement" nurses (eg. scab nurses hired specifically to break the strike).

Capitalism in crisis robs the working class

The greed of the Tenet bosses is deep and vi-



cious. During the pandemic, Tenet took \$2.8 billion of taxpayers money from the CARES ACT in 2020, and then proceeded to lay off and furlough thousands of desperately needed hospital staff as hundreds of thousands of workers were losing their lives to a deadly disease.

As a result of this opportunistic corruption, Tenet has made \$500 million in profits since the beginning of the pandemic, while reports from hospital staff revealed that "patients suffered preventable falls and bedsores, dangerous delays in receiving medications and other treatments," all due to staff shortages (telegram.com).

The money, which now lines Tenet's pockets was designated to fund the extra expenditures needed during the pandemic. Instead it is being used to pay for scab nurses and police protection, and to assault the working class, both as patients and healthcare workers. Now Tenet, blaming the nurses, has cut back services and 80 inpatient beds, intensifying the Covid-19 surge in Massachusetts.

This is why a capitalist healthcare system that

is motivated by profits will never be designed to serve the sick and in-need. The working class must design and call for a healthcare system that puts the health of their fellow class brothers and sisters first. A communist healthcare system in which all workers are encouraged to champion each other and the only compensation is a healthy working class.

The medical monster machine

Tenet, the "Amazon of healthcare," represents everything that is wrong with profit driven healthcare in the U.S. It treats patients and healthcare workers' lives as expendable, as it boasts to its shareholders about holding three billion in cash - 10 times what it had in 2019, while patients and staff members suffer.

If Tenet is able to crush this strike, it will set a dangerous precedent for reducing staffing ratios across the state and the country.

Over the course of the strike, PLP members and friends have walked the picket line consistently, have called for increased militancy, and exposed the racism and sexism endemic in our healthcare system. The drive to improve profit margins under this racist system has led to far worse outcomes and inhumane treatment for Black and Latin workers.

Community hospitals like St. Vincent, which disproportionately serves Black and Latin workers, has become the testing ground for ever more dangerous cost-saving measures that drag down the quality of healthcare overall, while insurance premiums skyrocket.

The only way to end this attack for good is for the working class to revolt against for-profit healthcare and fight for communism. Under communism, we can prioritize the lives of hospital workers and patients and not the petty greed of a handful of wealthy capitalists.

PLP is calling on other hospital workers, other unions, and particularly MNA unions in other hospitals: to strike in solidarity. Our strikes become schools for communism, teaching the working-class how to fight arm in arm for one another! The fight for safe staffing and conditions in healthcare institutions is all our struggle and our responsibility. We must rally to ensure these brave working class fighters emerge victorious from this struggle until a communist revolution is on the horizon.✊

Student multiracial unity is a winner in games

Continued from page 1

Black and Latin players as white and Asian players. As they practice volleyball, they're also practicing antiracist, multiracial unity.

History of segregated sports teams

The John Jay Campus, a historically Black and Latin school in the heart of a wealthy white neighborhood in Brooklyn, is a model of racist capitalist inequality. It houses three schools that enroll predominantly Black and Latin students from low-income families outside the neighborhood and a fourth school, Millennium Brooklyn, a selective, significantly white high school that has received more funding and resources per student than the other three.

Racist inequalities in sports access were a stun-

ningly obvious feature of the segregated package deal forced by Mayors Michael Bloomberg and Bill de Blasio. The John Jay Campus sports program served 1,859 students, more than 90 percent of them Black or Latin, and was given only nine teams. But the Millennium sports program got 17 teams for only 1,261 students—about half of them from Millennium High School in Manhattan, which uses John Jay's gym facilities and is only 25 percent Black and Latin.

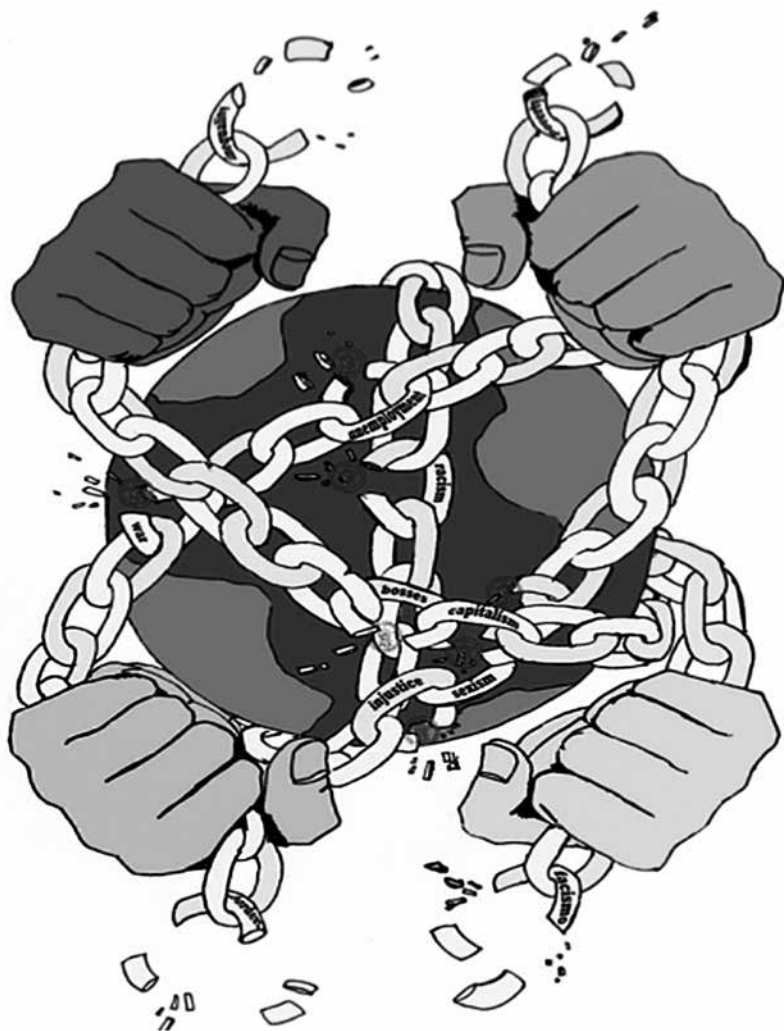
As part of a long-running struggle to integrate the programs and get Black and Latin students their fair share of resources, PLP parents joined with others in designing a sharp antiracist leaflet that rocked the racist status quo. After the killing of George Floyd and the mass protests that followed, the DOE's blatant racism was too much of an embarrassment even for the shameless school bosses.

The two sports teams were integrated—a huge reform victory. But the real work of building antiracist integration is just beginning.

For athletes, coaches, teachers, and parents, the real victory comes every time we stand up to the racist ruling class. Racism isn't going anywhere as long as we have capitalism. Only under communism, a society where the whole working class will work together for the benefit of all, will racism ever be smashed. In the meantime, all students and

workers need to be ready to take action over and over again. If we can make antiracist sports integration the main goal for students, parents, and staff, we will be one step closer to building working-class consciousness and one step closer to smashing capitalism. Stay tuned for more!✊

Imperialism displaced workers, smash all borders



HAITI, October 3—The caravans of immigrants heading to the United States making news are the result of the failure of capitalism and imperialism. This is not only true of migration to the U.S.; workers the world over leave their homes in search of safety from war, famine, climate disasters and violence, and for a decent life for themselves and their families. The Haiti refugee crisis yet again exposes capitalism’s inability to meet workers’ needs.

Racist rhetoric

For many decades now, migrants from the Caribbean and Central America have moved towards the U.S. and other countries in the western hemisphere. As soon as migrant workers are on the move, the bosses and their media begin demonizing them. Migrants are labeled “parasites, lazy, job stealers and disease carriers” as if they wouldn’t rather stay

in their homes to build their lives.

Today, most migrants arriving on the U.S. southern border are from Central and Latin America, but many are also from Haiti. Tens of thousands are making the trek across Latin America seeking safety.

The pictures coming from the U.S. border (See editorial on page 2). are a warning to migrants of the fascist terror that awaits them: border agents on horseback riding down and whipping migrants from Haiti like the old slave catchers in Saint Domingue (what the French slavers called Haiti). More warnings to worker migrating from Central America come from photos of refugee workers and their families being kept in concentration camps

How it started

Historically, the European ruling classes sent

their representatives around the world freely—to invade and set up colonies and slavery as economic models. In the so-called New World, the colonizers attacked the indigenous population with murder, rape, and disease. They stole land and wealth and forced some into slavery.

Later, the colonialists brought Black workers from Africa to be enslaved. Each group of oppressed workers in turn resisted. As time passed and the economy matured, the bosses needed to come up with a new form of slavery to take advantage of industrialization. Wage slavery was born. Today all countries are capitalist.

How it’s continuing

The impact of imperialism has been intense: racism and sexism, devastating effects of “natural” disasters, joblessness, political instability, and failing infrastructure. For almost two centuries, the countries of Latin America have been under U.S. imperialist domination. The 1823 Monroe Doctrine forbade any other power from intervening in this hemisphere.

In Haiti, this has meant the U.S. has been free to invade in 1915, 1994 and 2004 putting puppets in office and fomenting coups when their interests were in danger. This policy has been applied throughout Latin America.

Migrant workers did not create the conditions that forced them to move—capitalism did. However, nothing stays the same, change is inevitable, but how things change depends on us. What we do counts: fighting anti-immigrant racism with expressions of solidarity at any border, organizing on the job, in the military, and in our neighborhoods. But we must use these fights to build and recruit to the international communist Progressive Labor Party.

We will abolish wage slavery

There will come a time when slavery—chattel or wage—will no longer be tolerated; and like the masses in Haiti (the first enslaved people to successfully overthrow slavery), revolutionaries will lead the way for all humanity for an egalitarian society called communism.

Then workers across the world will be armed to fight the capitalist system and its lackeys—politicians, media, gangs, and bosses. We stand shoulder to shoulder with migrants around the world—workers of the world, unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains!✊

Southern Mexican Border

Liberal fascists use borders for imperialist needs

The city of Tapachula in southern Mexico near the border with Guatemala has become the largest refugee camp in the Americas with 35,000 people trapped in a makeshift city of barbed-wired streets (El Pais, 9/12). This is a direct consequence of joint policies between the governments of U.S. President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO).

This mass incarceration of workers, primarily from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Haiti is cruel evidence of liberals’ willingness and ability to exploit the power of the state in naked attempts to control and divide the working class to drive down wages and build nationalism.

Both AMLO and Biden campaigned as alternatives to unrestrained fascism and unregulated capitalism. But despite the liberals feigning horror at Donald Trump’s immigration politics, under Biden the hunt for workers at the border between the U.S. and Mexico has not only continued, it has become

more brutal (see Editorial). In Mexico, AMLO is willing to do the dirty work of corralling workers at its borders in exchange for U.S. funding for programs – cynically called “Sowing Life” and “Building the Future”—that will create temporary worker programs to supply cheap labor for AMLO’s megaprojects in southern Mexico.

The capitalists have always used borders and immigration policy to meet their imperial needs and keep the working class divided. They build maquiladoras (factories) close to the border to exploit low wages while facilitating the movement of goods.

They institute guest worker or bracero programs to move cheap labor across the border only when they need it. AMLO and Biden both make a show of welcoming workers fleeing the U.S. disaster in Afghanistan. But in Tapachula, like in northern Mexico, workers desperate for relief from the brutality of capitalism find themselves herded into overcrowd-

ed camps with inadequate food and facilities. Those who risk fleeing to the surrounding mountains or jungle are pursued by AMLO’s newly formed National Guard or by criminal gangs ignored by the police.

Under communism there will be no nations or borders. All workers will work to meet the needs of workers all over the world.

Capitalism is brutal for the working class. And the biggest capitalists in both the U.S. and Mexico are the liberals who are inflicting tremendous attacks on our class. Elections offer no hope of changing this as the choice between the Small Fascists like Donald Trump or the Big Fascists like Biden is a lose-lose for the working class (See glossary, page 6). Liberation for our class across the globe will only come through communist revolution and a society based on workers’ power.✊

Actions speak louder than words at education caucus

SEPTEMBER 11— On the 20th anniversary of 9/11, more than 65 faculty, academic workers, and graduate students gathered in a virtual forum sponsored by the Radical Caucus of the Modern Language Association (MLA) to analyze “New Keywords of Our Struggle.” Setting a key theme of the conference—“capitalism continues to kill us, as it is intended to do”—the keynote speaker, an adjunct, quoted Karl Marx’s statement that the original accumulation of capital in Europe was a story written “in letters of blood and fire.” He urged “communism” and “the dictatorship of the proletariat” as the keywords needed to end climate catastrophe, pandemic mass death, and racist killer cops.

He said that he looked forward to the day when words like “race”, “exploitation”, “property”, and “wages” joined “the lexicon of archaic terms.” Six speakers and a vigorous open discussion followed, demonstrating the sharpening of Progressive Labor Party’s (PLP) work among academics and emphasizing the need for current organizing to be guided by a revolutionary outlook and party.

The politics of words

Speakers highlighted how certain “keywords” either open doors for more radical organizing or obscure or discourage such organizing. A Black professor criticized the new keyword “intersectionality”, arguing how it can also cover up campus policies better described by an old keyword, “exploitation.” A university union leader analyzed the term “union” as itself a contradiction: workers are weaker facing the boss without a union, which makes more unified struggle against capitalist ex-

ploitation possible; however, the union itself, narrowly focused only on its own members, becomes a barrier to wider working-class consciousness.

A recent Black college grad, now an elementary school teacher, described how she is pushed by her bosses to use the keyword “professionalism,” even with her very young students, which she criticized as a way to obscure the exploitation of teachers and fill young students with self-blame.

Other speakers, like one organizer from Colombia, highlighted the need to bring words in other languages and struggles in other countries into the political awareness of people in the Global North. She explained the power of terms like “la primera línea”(the frontline, youth brigades who protect marchers) and “la minga” (collective decisions in popular assemblies) to building anti-capitalist and revolutionary consciousness. A speaker from Afghanistan, now teaching in CUNY, interrogated the keyword of “the state,” noting how imperialists have used the capitalist concepts of modernization, human rights, and women’s rights to obscure the aims of the U.S. invasions and occupations.

The final speaker sharpened the discussion of keywords by introducing the concept of joining a communist party, specifically PLP. Only by building a mass communist party can we actually abolish the death trap of capitalism. He contrasted communism with socialism, which at best only moderates capitalist exploitation. Social Democrats (liberal fascists) like Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez or Bernie Sanders want to give workers a few crumbs while they lead us into dead end electoral politics. Com-

munists know we have to destroy the bosses’ state and smash their ability to exploit our labor.

PLP’s line made clear

Vigorous debates followed, including sharp questions about the contradiction between communist revolution and national liberation. PLP’s line against nationalism was made clear. Participants concluded the conference urging the Radical Caucus to hold future keywords discussions focusing on individual or juxtaposed words: “communism” or even “communism vs. socialism” or “communism vs. climate collapse.” “Having a member of PLP speak openly about the need to build not only a communist movement but also a communist party like PLP reflected the growing awareness of the inability of capitalism to meet the needs of the world’s workers. It also reflected the crucial role of PLP’s long-term organizing and relationships established in the CUNY Professional Staff Congress (union), the Marxist Literary Group, and the Radical Caucus.

Since the January 2021 MLA Convention, we have worked closely in the Radical Caucus to build friendships and political ties with faculty and students, organizing an April 30 Conference on “Class Struggles in Higher Education,” three “Keywords” Reading Groups leading up to the Sept. 11 Forum, and panels for the upcoming MLA Convention in January 2022. Given the anti-communism in fake-left circles, having a long term approach to base building, communist organizing and Party building is crucial to making the discussion of communism and the need for a communist party front and center.☺

Joseph Stalin – a communist most feared and hated by capitalists

The anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution is soon approaching, and it’s time to debunk some anti-communist myths, again. The U.S. ruling class reviles Joseph Stalin, one of the first communist leaders of the Soviet Union (USSR), and so they lie about him. But they lie about so many things, why would they tell the truth about Stalin. Yet the capitalist slander campaign against Stalin led many authors, university researchers and even ordinary people to dislike Stalin. Why so much capitalist hatred against Joseph Stalin?

First, some facts. After the Russian Revolution, 12 European countries (including the U. S. and Japan) invaded the Soviet Union to kill this new socialist society in its cradle. They were defeated. Instead Stalin led the socialist Soviet Union from being “the poor man of Europe” to a world power that challenged the worldwide empire of the capitalist United States.

Under Stalin’s leadership, the Soviet Union became powerful enough to defeat Hitler’s Nazis in World War II. Of the 250 Nazi divisions that fought in World War II, 200 of them fought to conquer the Soviet Union...and were defeated. Eighty five percent of German casualties were at the hands of the USSR. It was only after the Soviets began pushing the Nazis back, that the Allies invaded Normandy. The Soviet people and their Red Army suffered huge casualties (20 million dead) and destruction, but it was they that defeated the Nazis.

The Soviet leaders educated all citizens, including college and trade schools. They provided universal health care and employment. Workers had four weeks of paid vacation and received a pension at age 60, women at age 55. They had paid maternity leave and free childcare and they eliminated the centuries-old famines that had racked the Ukraine.

Some charge that Stalin was a dictator, yet he struggled mightily for a new constitution with secret elections so that the entrenched bureaucracy would be challenged. Local Party Secretaries defeated him in this effort.



It is helpful to see the sources of the criticisms of Stalin. The sources of the forced starvation stories in the Ukraine are anti-communist, pro-Nazi sympathizers who left the Ukraine and headed to the Western countries.

In 1956 Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev denounced Stalin and his achievements in a secret speech. Khrushchev wanted to take the USSR in a more capitalist direction. Professor Grover Furr documents that of the 61 charges Khrushchev levels against Stalin, 60 can be proven to be false. Needless to say that speech is the source of many of the attacks on Stalin.

Another source of attacks was the writing and organizing of Leon Trotsky. He was a charismatic individual with the emphasis on individual. Trotsky belonged to a different party than Stalin and Lenin. He joined the Bolsheviks when the Russian Revolution was imminent. When Lenin died, Trotsky thought that he should be the next leader. He organized for his ideas. They were publicized widely in the Party, but when it came to a vote, his position lost 724,000 to 4,000. The Bolsheviks and Lenin chose Stalin.

However, he continued to organize against Stalin and the Bolshevik leadership and was finally kicked out of the Party. He secretly continued his anti-Stalin organizing and propaganda. He appealed, not to the workers, but to the capitalists all over the world for support. Capitalists loved his stories because it gave them more ammunition against Stalin. But Furr speaks and reads Russian and English and has had access to Trotsky’s archives as well as the archives of the former Soviet Union. He has written and self-published several books on the period. For those who want to learn what really took place under Stalin’s leadership, please go to his website:<https://msuweb.montclair.edu/~furr/>

The fact is that college professors who try to write a balanced or a favorable view of Stalin are ostracized by the system. They can’t get published. Those that promote anti-Stalinism get published, paid and praised.

The reason the capitalists hate Stalin is because he helped lead a revolution that threw them out of power. The capitalists who exploit workers, who bring death and destruction, who promote racism and sexism, hate Stalin. They benefit from our ignorance that it is possible to have a system where the capitalists do not exist. But a better world is possible. It’s communism where the workers of the world rule and the capitalists are in the trash heap of history.☺

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Propaganda is power in the hands of workers

Two of us here in Massachusetts distributed CHALLENGE at a Haitian-church-sponsored protest against Biden's cruel and vicious deportations of workers from Haiti. About 150 workers from Haiti and others heard church leaders speak. The thrust of the speeches was that "Though these terrible things are happening, God will help us get through these troubled times."

Signs said "No Deportations", "Stop Discrimination", and "Due Process for All Refugees."

One speaker attacked the racism of the deportations of Haitian workers in the U.S. She said that refugees from Afghanistan to the U.S. are helped to resettle, while refugees from Haiti are deported, where kidnapping, gang violence, poverty, and hunger are everywhere, and where some deportees haven't lived for over 10 years.

While Black churches have been a base of support for the Democratic party of capitalism, Biden's racist deportations have spurred many protests.

Religion can't save us from capitalism. But a number of people in this religious crowd took CHALLENGE when we told them that the paper calls for overthrowing the system of capitalism, racism, deportations, and war.

We also reconnected with some old friends of the Progressive Labor Party.

★★★★★

Vaccinate against individualism

It's the start of the Covid-19 mandate at work, and I hope more transit workers get vaccinated because as of right now, nearly 40 percent of us are unvaccinated. I'm not sure how the bosses are going to handle workers who choose not to comply.

In the transit quarters last month, my vaccine hesitant co-worker tested positive for Covid-19. Many workers, including myself, that he made contact with had to quarantine until they got a negative test result. Everyone came back with a negative result except one worker who was vaccinated.

I asked my vaccine hesitant coworker,

"Has this experience changed your opinion on the vaccine?"

"No," he responded. "In fact it only solidified my ideas even more. Like why get the vaccine? When our other coworker who was vaccinated got Covid."

I told him, "it's because he was vaccinated that he had no symptoms and you had severe flu-like symptoms."

Then he replied, "I don't argue bro, not even with my wife."

The conversation may have ended there but at least the Covid scare has encouraged one of my closest coworkers who has been uncertain about the vaccination. After being exposed and learning of our co workers' view on vaccines, he said he "didn't wanna take any chances."

Many workers are falling victim to conspiracy theories surrounding the vaccine. I've come to realize it's mostly out of fear. Fear of things changing by getting worse. The worst part is that workers are told that the only change we can get is in a voting booth, which builds more cynicism. This then transitions into inaction, which allows capitalism to continue. Most workers don't know communism is a choice, too. They don't know that many workers are striving for it. I hope to continually struggle with my coworker and turn his cynical inaction into action towards a communist future!

★★★★★

Liberals are still the main danger

Here in Washington, DC on September 18, fascist supporters of the January 6 insurrectionists at the U.S. Capitol tried to rally, calling for the release of the so-called political prisoners from that participated in the storming of the Capitol back in January. Their call fell flat with only a few dozen showing up, as thousands of police from DC, Maryland, and Virginia ringed the newly-fenced Capitol with hundreds of National Guard troops on call. PLP members joined a counter-rally, distributing over 70 CHALLENGEs and making contact with several young people interested in revolution.

Our numbers must grow to form a disciplined revolutionary communist party to better lead the fight against fascism and the

entire capitalist system.

Fighting the gutter racists like those who had stormed the Capitol is important, but we should not lose sight of the greater danger posed to our class by the liberal politicians who pretend to be our friends. Already, Biden and his ilk are intensifying imperialist rivalry with China in the South China Seas and the Indo Pacific in general with new military alliances forming with Australia and India, leading towards war to re-divide the world among the rich capitalists. Both Democratic and Republican politicians almost unanimously supported an increased "defense" (read: war) budget and more cops to keep us under control.

Workers of the world have nothing to gain from looming war and everything to lose. These rulers in both imperialist China and imperialist U.S. must be overthrown by a united struggle of workers of the world. This message was endorsed by many of those at the counter rally. The next step must be to grow the Party and sharpen the fight against the finance capitalists who rule (and destroy!) our lives!

★★★★★

I shared CHALLENGE at immigration march

Several of my comrades and I were happy to join the immigration march in DC on September 21 to help bring the Progressive Labor Party and CHALLENGE to some of the thousands of multiracial marchers. I was personally able to share CHALLENGE with over 50 of them. I've been involved locally in fighting to close the concentration-style camps for immigrant workers and tenant housing struggles, and was happy to see many friends from these struggles in the march.

I wore a shirt that had "revolution" in bold white letters on a red background, and this attracted a number of people who wanted to talk more about our Party. Despite the great spirit of the marchers, we really have to be clear that the liberal politicians who claim to be on the side of immigrants are really just repping on behalf of finance capital. So, we need to build a revolutionary party to lead a fight to topple the whole system!

★★★★★

John Brown, Harriet Tubman: model for multiracial unity

Continued from page 8

cannot be overcome primarily inside one's head. It requires material change in the way one lives. Among the Black and militant white abolitionists, multiracial unity developed over years of working together, getting to know each other while struggling over their differences.

Revolutionary mass violence

We invite all workers, soldiers and students who participate in antiracist struggle to join Progressive Labor Party (PLP). PLP stands on the shoulders of Brown, Tubman, Douglass and the masses of workers who supported John Brown's Raid and the Underground Railroad. These antiracists and their politics, however, were not without limitations.

John Brown correctly analyzed that only direct action and violence could end slavery — and on the eve of his execution, even admitted he underestimated how much violence it would take. PLP applauds the merciless violence shown by Brown to racists like plantation own-

ers and kidnappers but rejects small-scale guerilla warfare. We fight for a mass militant communist movement whose soldiers will come from workers in the factories and fields. Communist revolution means millions of us — eventually all of us — must become communist organizers at our jobs, campuses, barracks, and mass organizations.

Mass violence is the opposite of John Brown's religious-based outlook of individual martyrdom. History has shown that wherever the working masses have stood and fought, they are invincible. Mass violence means millions of workers are organized and armed, first, with communist ideas. It means fighting to win workers to the philosophy of dialectical materialism and analyzing the world from the perspective of class struggle and smashing racism with communist revolution for workers' dictatorship.

The working class' historic task is to overthrow capitalism. Violence cannot be avoided. However, this means neither dwelling on death nor on individualistic "revolutionary suicide," but on organ-

izing and preserving our forces to continue the struggle.

Join PLP!

Today there is again a split within the U.S. ruling class, but the world situation is much different. U.S. imperialism is declining while Chinese and Russian imperialism grow more assertive. The Big Fascist (see glossary box), imperialist section of the U.S. ruling class has no Lincoln to unite their faction of capitalists, just the feeble Joe Biden. The Big Fascists want to build liberal fascism under the guise of saving a democracy that never existed while building for war with China and or Russia. Meanwhile the domestically oriented, Small Fascist capitalists have unhinged egomaniacs like Donald Trump who want an isolationist "Fortress America."

Both capitalist factions mean sharper racist, sexist, and open fascist attacks on the international working class. PLP fights to follow John Brown and Harriet Tubman's example and lead the working class to revolution where workers run the world, without racist bosses and their profit system. JOIN US!✊

GLOSSARY COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Smash republicrats' sexist healthcare with communism



October 2—Thousands of antisexist workers and youth rallied and marched in dozens of cities across the U.S. today to confront the capitalist bosses' sexist assault on women's reproductive health. Millions of workers are rightly outraged at Senate Bill 8 (SB8) passed last month in Texas. This law bans abortions once fetal heart activity can be detected (approximately six weeks in gestation). Backed by isolationist Small Fascist (see Glossary, page 6) bosses like Texas Governor Greg Abbott, similar restrictive laws could soon spread across many southern states.

As was certainly the case today, the struggle for access to abortion gets framed as a tug-of-war between progressive "pro-choice" liberal leaders and reactionary "pro-life" conservatives. However, this framing seeks to conceal past and present racist, obstacles to life-saving health care for working class women and conveniently minimizes the threat posed by the dominant Big Fascist bosses in viciously destroying working-class lives both in the U.S. and around the world.

As economic crisis and inter-imperialist rivalry intensify, the capitalist bosses and their politician servants are driven to further attack workers' standard of living and push a dehumanized fascist culture. Restricting access to basic medical procedures like abortions under the guise of being "pro-life" or denying needed medical care to working class women via a health care system that serves the insurance bosses are just a couple of the many ways the bosses can shore up their profits and attack the working class.

Communists in the international Progressive Labor Party (PLP) seek to win our class to understand the capitalist profit system as fundamentally incompatible with our health and development as

working people. Truly equitable access to health care and other essential services will only be won by uniting our class on an international level through a mass PLP to destroy the profit system with communist revolution.

Capitalism profits off sexism

Deadly restrictive laws such as SB8 are only the latest sexist attacks by the capitalists against the working class. From its inception, capitalism has always relied on sexist wage differentials in order to garner billions in profits. While the liberal bosses fawn over a tiny percentage of female executives as proof that capitalism "can work for everyone," the sexist reality persists of women workers making 84 cents for every dollar their male worker counterparts make (Pew Research, 5/21). Even more insidious is capitalism's continued disregard for unpaid domestic labor, such as child rearing, which remains primarily shouldered by women workers.

The notion that any worker under capitalism has a significant degree of "autonomy" over their own self gets contradicted by the exploitative nature of capitalism. As workers under the profit system, we have no option but to undersell our labor power to the bosses in exchange for a wage. Women workers, and in particular Black women workers, are attacked the hardest by capitalism. Sexist violence and discrimination affect women workers most acutely. These sexist attacks and divisions are used to weaken our class and can only be overcome by uniting as an entire class against capitalism.

Big Fascist liberals have more blood on their hands

The dozens of reformist mass organizations responsible for today's rallies are by and large in lock-step politically with the finance capital Big Fascist

wing of the U.S. ruling class, currently fronted by President Joe Biden. On the heels of the Afghanistan withdrawal debacle and the ruthless anti-Black racism on full display at the U.S.-Mexico border, these Big Fascists desperately need some means to paint themselves as defenders of the working class while attacking their Small Fascist rivals.

But even a casual glance at their "women's rights" events show how drastically they fall short. By and large, such events are filled with relatively affluent white professionals. Black, Latin, Asian, indigenous, and lower-income white women workers—those most threatened by the implementation of abortion restrictions—are those least represented in the liberal-led arena.

This exclusion points to the racist and class character of abortion and reproductive health access under capitalism. For women bosses and wealthy families, reproductive care has always been relatively easy to obtain. For the working class, Black women in the U.S.—millions of whom live in states or cities headed by liberals—are three to four times more likely to die a maternal-related death compared to white women (Health Affairs, 2/4/19).

The Big Fascists' dedication to maintaining capitalism above everything else—to the tune of cutting welfare benefits, closing hospitals, and poisoning the air and water—is what condemns millions of workers every year to poor health and premature death. It's what drives the bosses to deport pregnant women workers from Haiti or Honduras to die in the desert. It's what drives them to launch drone strikes in Afghanistan or Somalia that massacre children. What was these workers' "choice" on the matter?

Workers' power is key

As workers, we must hold no illusions about who is endangering our health, safety, and development. In order to truly guarantee a healthy existence for our class, we need to overthrow capitalism, a political and economic system based on the profits and privileges of a few in favor of a communist system that prioritizes workers' well being above all else.

After workers took power in the October Revolution, all abortions were made legal in the Soviet Union by 1920. As we build the fight to beat back sexist and racist laws like SB8 we can never lose sight that the most radical social advances occur when working people violently seize state power from the bosses. Join the PLP today and help build this revolutionary struggle.✊



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Great powers war may begin with smaller territorial gains

Foreign Affairs, 9/24—In his influential 2011 book on the global decline of violence, Steven Pinker found reasons for optimism... "Zero is also the number of times that any country has conquered even parts of some other country since 1975." That portrayal of conquest's demise is hopeful, but it is not accurate...attempts to conquer territory succeed about as often as they did a century ago: approximately half the time. Looking forward, possible Chinese and Russian conquests loom as many of the most consequential and plausible scenarios for conflicts among the world's great powers.

Chinese soldiers unexpectedly occupying the Senkakus [Islands] is the most likely pathway to armed conflict between China and Japan. In this scenario, Beijing would take the islands. This could leave the Japanese government with an unenviable choice: attack Chinese forces or tacitly acquiesce to their presence by responding with only diplomatic and economic measures.

Taiwan controls Kinmen and Matsu, islands located within artillery range of the Chinese coast. Seizing these islands would allow Beijing to rally the Chinese people, send a clear message of intimidation to Taiwan, and risk a military confrontation on the most favorable ground possible. It would also confront Washington with a dismal set of options: either intervene close to the Chinese mainland to defend small islands or be accused of abandoning Taiwan...

Switch away from carbon means billions for capitalists

The Economist, 8/21—BloombergNEF, a research firm, reckons that last year investors poured more than \$500bn into the "energy transition" (shorthand for decarbonising everything). A slug of that has come in the form of risk-tolerant venture capital (VC) flooding into many fields.

America's Department of Energy announced a \$1.5bn partnership with Breakthrough Energy Catalyst, part of a network founded by Bill Gates, which aims to accelerate development of novel technologies in sustainable aviation fuel, green hydrogen, direct air capture and long-term energy storage.

Europe's governments are splashing out [money], too. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has teamed up with Breakthrough Energy Catalyst on a \$1bn initiative to build large-scale demonstration projects for clean technologies.

Early this year JPMorgan Chase, America's biggest bank, said it would commit \$2.5tn to sustainable investing over ten years. Of that, \$1tn...is aimed explicitly at clean technologies. Even carbon-cudlers like Koch Industries, America's biggest private firm and a fossil-fuel powerhouse reviled by environmentalists, is putting around \$350mn of what it calls "long-term, patient capital" into the energy transformation... "in climate tech, everything is hard." Everything, that is, except raising capital.

Quad meets in White House to plan containing China

WSJ, 9/30 — Can the Quad contain China? Last week the leaders of the four nations that make up the informal grouping—the U.S., Japan, India and Australia—met for the first time in person at the White House. It's too soon to say whether the Quad will achieve its unstated goal: stopping an authoritarian China from becoming Asia's undisputed hegemon. Taken together with the new Aukus military pact among the U.S., the U.K., and Australia ... these initiatives signal clear intent to combat Beijing. President Trump spearheaded the Quad's revival in 2017 and President Biden has doubled down on his predecessor's commitment.

Saudis look for alternatives to U.S. control of Middle East

Atlantic Council, 9/30 — A planned meeting between Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin was canceled two weeks ago...Meanwhile, Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman met with Austin's Russian counterpart—a signal to the United States from both Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Saudi Arabia has been pulling back from its singular reliance on the United States...There are Chinese advisors embedded in its Ministry of Defense, while the kingdom took steps to develop a civilian nuclear program with Chinese assistance behind the United States' back. Recently, Saudi officials participated in talks with Iran about détente—an other indication that they're no longer leaving their security entirely in the hands of the United States.

WORKERS' HISTORY

JOHN BROWN, HARRIET TUBMAN: MODELS FOR MULTIRACIAL FIGHTBACK



This coming October 17 marks the 162nd anniversary of abolitionist John Brown's 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry. It was a revolutionary revolt showing the need for militant, antiracist, multiracial, revolutionary struggle!

1850s: U.S. capitalist class splits violently

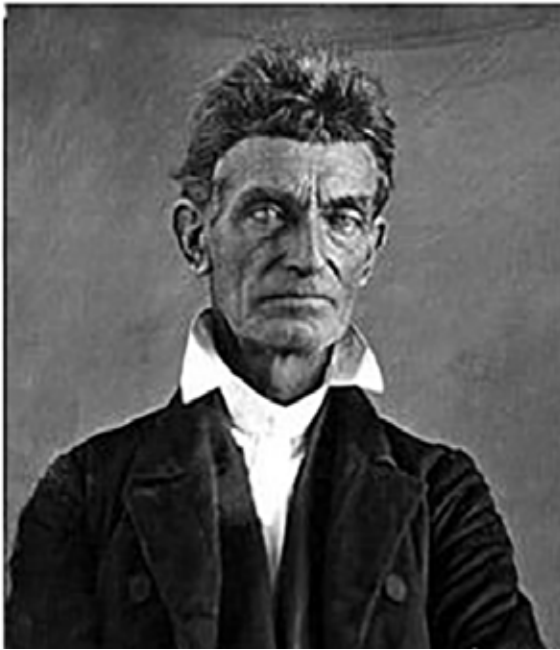
The setting of John Brown's Raid is the U.S. of the 1850s, with dueling factions of the U.S. capitalist class fighting each other. To the Southern slave-owning planters, harvesting cotton depended on enslaving Black workers indefinitely, even if it meant seceding and forming their own country. The Southern capitalists had a stranglehold on U.S. state power, controlling the Supreme Court and the presidency for decades. The logic of the infamous Dred Scott Supreme Court case of 1857 gave a green light to expand slavery, and in 1859, John Brown led his multiracial raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

The Southern plantation-owning U.S. capitalists were terrified by John Brown's Raid's militant, multiracial unity, a real-life rebuke of their racist stereotyping. One of the raiders' five Black freedom fighters, Osborne Anderson, described the atmosphere before-hand:

"I have been permitted to realize to its furthest, fullest extent, the moral, mental, physical, social harmony of an Anti-slavery family, carrying out to the letter the principle of the Anti-slavery cause. In John Brown's house, and in John Brown's presence, men from widely different parts of the continent met and united into one company, wherein no hateful prejudice dared intrude its ugly self — no ghost of a distinction found space to enter."

From childhood, Brown vowed to fight slavery

This trust among white and Black workers did not happen overnight. John Brown's father was a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad in Ohio. At 12, Brown met a fugitive enslaved boy and saw the suffering slav-



ery had inflicted on him, influencing Brown forever. He believed Black and white people were completely equal. He put this knowledge into action daily.

As an adult, Brown moved his family to a farm in North Elba, NY near a Black community of former enslaved workers. Black sisters and brothers were regularly invited to the house for dinner with Brown's family. He addressed them as "Mr." or "Mrs.," sharply contrasting with the era's racist mores (true even among many slavery opponents).

Preparing for the raid, Brown turned to both Black and white abolitionists. In April 1858, while gathering money, arms and volunteers in Canada, he visited Harriet Tubman. She was well-known to the Black fugitive slave community there, having personally guided many to freedom. Tubman supported his plans, urging him to set July 4, 1858, for the raid and promising to bring volunteers. They agreed to communicate through their mutual friend Frederick Douglass, Black abolitionist and former enslaved worker.

Tubman: Liberator of 300 enslaved workers

Tubman's own experiences made her and Brown close. Born around 1820 of enslaved parents on a Maryland plantation, Tubman performed house and field work, was subjected to physical abuse and tearfully saw many of her nine siblings sold away from the family. In her teens, Tubman suffered a

broken skull from brutal plantation life. Her owner tried selling her as "damaged goods." Instead, she fled, walking for several weeks, mostly at night, the 90 miles to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad. She returned shortly afterwards, guiding her family out of slavery to Canada. And that was just the beginning.

Over 11 years, with a bounty on her head, Tubman made 13 trips south and guided an estimated 300 enslaved workers to freedom in Canada. Tubman warmly endorsed Brown's armed struggles in Kansas against the pro-slavery gangs. Brown, in turn, knew Tubman's courage, militancy, and knowledge of the land and Underground Railroad network, and felt Tubman would be invaluable in executing their plans to free the enslaved by any means necessary. He always addressed her as "General Tubman." Both believed in direct action and armed violence to end slavery.

Tubman became ill and could not bring her forces to Harper's Ferry, but her work inspired the rest of the raiders. Tubman's example, like that of Osborne Anderson and the other Black raiders, discredited the image of Black people as passive victims, terrifying the Southern enslavers and politicians, and inspired the abolitionist movement.

Black rebellions petrified slave owners

Like all forms of class society, slavery relied on ruling class violence. But to those who say workers won't fight back against oppression, the stubborn facts of history show struggle is universal.

Nat Turner's 1831 armed rebellion catapulted abolition as an immediate demand. Abolitionists like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, John Brown, Sojourner Truth, William Lloyd Garrison and many others, joined this fight. The 1850 Fugitive Slave Act extended the reach of the enslavers into the North to capture accused runaways, but abolitionists often attacked these kidnappers, sometimes freeing the runaways. Frederick Douglass said, "The only way to make the Fugitive Slave Law a dead letter is to make a dozen or more dead kidnappers." The enslavers, although talking of "docile" Black workers, knew this well. They were petrified of potential Black rebels and of "outside agitators."

They patrolled all night with dogs and guns to intimidate their enslaved workers and to keep abolitionist literature away from them. Brown and Tubman demonstrated that racist and nationalist ideas

Continued on page 6

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